

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-2

WASHINGTON TIMES
28 July 1983

Toss out Sandinistas, defector says to U.S.

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 24-year-old defector from Nicaragua yesterday called on the United States to help overthrow the leftist Sandinista regime because it cannot be reformed.

Official United States policy supports covert aid to guerrillas, who claim they are trying to create a pluralistic society.

Miguel Bolanos, a Sandinista for five years, said reform was impossible because of the government's totalitarian trends.

"As a communist government, you must overthrow them," Bolanos said at a Capitol Hill press conference. Bolanos also said that Cuban President Fidel Castro exercises control over Sandinista projects. "They won't do anything that doesn't have the OK of Fidel," he said.

Bolanos added that Cuban or Soviet advisers often would be called in to correct or approve Sandinista plans, but he said that does not make the Nicaraguans Soviet agents.

"I wouldn't place them as an agent of the Soviet Union," he said, though the Sandinistas are "exporting revolution every place that they can."

Bolanos said he was a Sandinista intelligence official for three years, responsible for surveillance of the U.S. Embassy and CIA activities. He also said he fought in the final battles to overthrow the government of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

In other comments, Bolanos said Nicaragua was prepared to fight a war with neighboring Honduras, that the country now has 80 tanks whereas there were only five during the Somoza regime, and that five Soviet generals have been training top Sandinista officials since 1979.

The East Germans have provided a machine capable of tapping 500 to 700 of the nation's 25,000 telephones, which replaces the model used by Somoza that had only a 50-phone capacity, he added.

The CIA and the State Department have conducted extensive debriefings of Bolanos. A previous Sandinista defector, Orlando Jose Tardencillas, embarrassed the Reagan administration in March 1982 by suddenly recanting his previous attacks on the regime during a press conference.